

Legislative Update

January 14, 2013 | Day 1 of the 105-day legislative session

2013 Legislative Session began today

147 lawmakers convened in Olympia today for the official start of the 2013 Legislative Session. In addition to our new Governor, there are 21 new House members and 11 new Senators.

Lawmakers have 105 days to work on the next two-year budget, which is the primary focus of this session, ending on April 28, 2013.

Highlights for this week include:

- Gov. Gregoire's final State of the State address is Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 11:15 a.m. You can watch it live at www.tvw.org
- House Appropriations hearing on Gov. Gregoire's request budget is Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 3:30 p.m.
- Gov.-elect Jay Inslee will be sworn into office Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the rotunda of the Legislative building.
- Gov. Inslee will give his State of the State address during a joint session of the House and Senate inside House chambers later that morning.
- The Washington State Governor's Inaugural Ball, Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.
- Senate Ways and Means committee work session on Jan. 16 at 3:30 p.m. about the Operating and Capital Budgets.
- House Ag & Natural Resources committee work session on Jan. 16 at 8:00 a.m. regarding regional fisheries enhancement groups and recent changes to the habitat program at the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- House Local government committee work session on Jan. 17 at 8:00 a.m. regarding the Shoreline Management Act and State Environmental Policy Act.
- House Ag & Natural Resources committee work session on Jan. 17 at 1:30 p.m. regarding derelict vessel management and the recent forest practices habitat conservation plan settlement agreement.
- House Local Government committee will hold a work session about the Growth Management Act on Jan. 18 at 1:30 p.m.

2013 LEGISLATURE AT A GLANCE

Information:

- For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- To watch or listen to a legislative hearing, visit: www.tvw.org
- For both current and previous copies of the Legislative Report, visit: www.psp.wa.gov

Communication and Coordination:

If you are planning to testify on a bill, meet with legislators or would like help connecting with a legislator about Puget Sound issues—please contact Michael Grayum, the Partnership's Public Affairs Director at 360-628-1907.

Majority Coalition confirmed in the Senate

Today the Senate voted to enact new rules that give the institution's majority to a coalition or alliance of 23 Republicans and two crossover Democrats. The Senate Resolution was adopted 25 to 23.

Before that vote, Senate Democrats offered up a rival resolution to share power equally with Republicans on the chamber's committees. The Democrats' proposed rule change failed on a 25 to 23 roll call vote.

The 25 votes on both resolutions included Democratic Sen. Rodney Tom of Medina, Democratic Sen. Tim Sheldon of Potlatch and 23 Republicans – all of who formed an alliance after the November elections to take over control of the 49-member Senate.

Senate leadership confirmed

The Senate has sworn in Democratic Sen. Tim Sheldon to serve as President Pro Tempore, presiding over the politically divided chamber when Lt. Gov. Brad Owen is away. No one else was nominated, but the vote was 38 to 10.

Sen. Paull Shin was sworn in as Vice-President Pro Tempore after the Senate voted him in without dissent. The Senate also voted to appoint Hunter Goodman as Secretary of the Senate, its chief administrative officer. Goodman recently served as a deputy and legislative director for outgoing Attorney General Rob McKenna. The vote was 44 to 1.

House Appropriations hearing on Gov. Gregoire's request budget

We have a hearing on Gov. Gregoire's request budget in the House Appropriations Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 3:30 p.m. in House Hearing Room A of the John L. O'Brien Building. Natural Resources will be one of three topics discussed. Anyone attending should sign-in wanting to testify, but know that not everyone will get the opportunity to do so.

You can read the Governor's 2013 Budget Policy Brief about Puget Sound at: <http://bit.ly/WYGOxm>

You can also read more about Governor's proposed 2013 budget at: <http://1.usa.gov/V76zS6>

County commissioners to fill vacant 26th District Senate seat

On Thursday, Pierce County Council members and Kitsap County commissioners will meet to pick a successor to Derek Kilmer, who was recently elected to Congress.

Local Democrats late last month selected emergency room doctor Nathaniel Schlicher as their top choice to serve a year in the state Senate, filling Kilmer's seat for the 26th District. By law, the council members and commissioners can pick Schlicher or one of two runners-up also nominated Dec. 27 by 26th District Democrats: Todd Iverson or Gerry Baldwin.

The winner will need four of six votes that will be split equally between Kitsap and Pierce counties. The appointment could be important for the new legislative session.